

***Eriogonum maculatum* Heller**  
spotted buckwheat  
Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family)

**Status:** State Possibly Extirpated  
**Rank:** G5SX

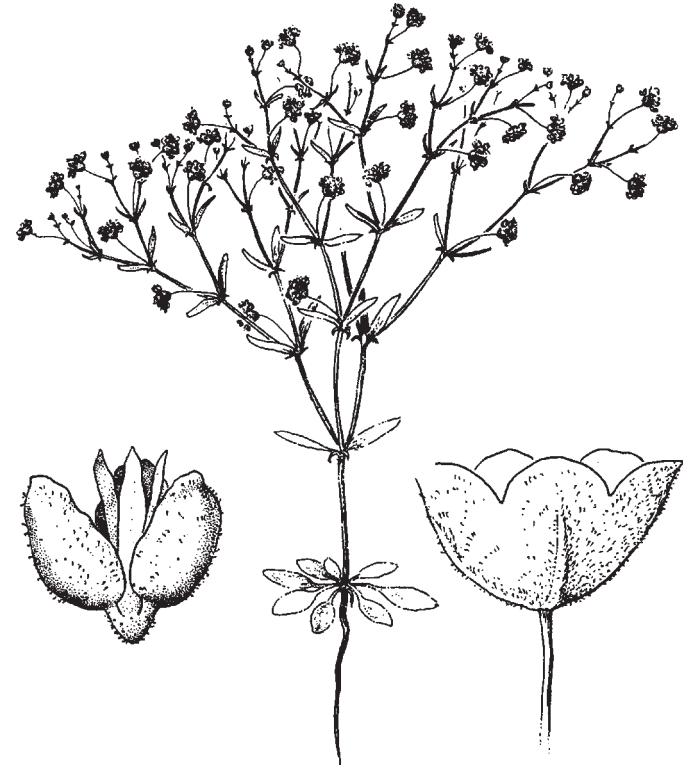
**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961) and Hickman (1993): *Eriogonum maculatum* is a spreading, freely branched, hairy annual that is 4 to 12 in. (10-30 cm) tall. The leaves are basal and also occur at the first few nodes. The basal leaves are lanceolate to obovate, 1/3 to 3-1/8 in. (1-8 cm) long, densely covered with short, soft, white hairs, especially below, and narrowing to a short petiole. The stem leaves gradually reduce in size towards the top of the plant, and mostly lack petioles. There are one to several spreading stems that tend to branch in threes below, and in twos above. At each node there are threadlike, angled, spreading flower stalks, bearing bell-shaped involucres (cup shaped structures with multiple flowers within them) that have 5 hairy, glandular, erect to flaring lobes that are 1/16 in. (1.5-2.5 mm) long. The inflorescences have many flowers. The flowers are 1/8 in. (2.5 mm) long and white to yellow, or pink to red. The flowers are glandular, minutely covered with short hairs, and often have a single large purplish spot or stripe on the outer lobes. The outer flower lobes are wider and shorter than the inner lobes. The glabrous fruits are greenish and 1/16 in. (1-1.5 mm) long.

**Identification Tips:** *Eriogonum maculatum* is closely related to *E. vimineum* var. *baileyi*, and can be distinguished by the following: the leaves of *E. maculatum* are lanceolate to obovate and 1/3 to 3-1/8 in. (1-8 cm) long, while the leaves of *E. vimineum* var. *baileyi* are oval to broadly elliptic and up to 1-1/8 in. (0.5-3 cm) long. The involucres of *E. maculatum* are hairy and glandular, while those of *E. vimineum* var. *baileyi* are glabrous (not hairy).

**Phenology:** Throughout its range the species is identifiable from June to July. In Washington it was observed in early June.

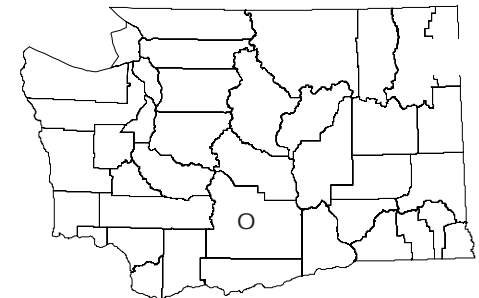
**Range:** This species is known from southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho through California, Nevada and Utah to southern Arizona. In Washington it was historically known from Yakima County.

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Known distribution  
of *Eriogonum maculatum*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Michael Charters

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**Habitat:** This species is found in sandy to heavy soils, chiefly in sagebrush desert. In California it is found between 328 to 8202 feet (100-2500 m) elevation.

**Ecology:** This is an arid-land species at the northern end of its range in Washington.

**State Status Comments:** No extant individuals of *Eriogonum maculatum* have been seen in Washington since its 1884 historical collection. In 1981 the area of the historical collection site was revisited and no individuals were found.

**Inventory Needs:** Appropriate habitat in Yakima and adjacent counties should be surveyed for possible occurrences.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** The species may be extirpated from Washington.

**Comments:** Hitchcock et al. (1964) refer to *Eriogonum maculatum* as *E. angulosum* Benth.

**References:**

Hickman, J.C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1400 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 597 pp.

Reveal, James L. 1985. Annotated key to *Eriogonum* (Polygonaceae) of Nevada. *Great Basin Naturalist* 45 (3) pp 493-519.